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## NOTES

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A *Syllabus of Geometry*, by G. A. Wentworth, has just been issued by Ginn & Co.

THE December number of the *Political Science Quarterly* closed the tenth volume of that important publication.

A SELECTION from Keats' Poems, edited by Arlo Bates, is announced in The Athenæum Press Series (Ginn & Co.) to appear in February.

A NEW biography of George Washington, by Professor Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton, will be a feature of *Harper's Magazine* during 1896.

TEACHERS and students of United States History are finding a wealth of illustrative material of the most interesting sort on the new *Life of Lincoln* now running in McClure's.

THE January issues of the Riverside Literature Series, published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, New York, and Chicago, are (No. 89) *Gulliver's Voyage to Lilliput*, and (No. 90) *Gulliver's Voyage to Brobdingnag*.

THE late Dr. Jowett is reported to have once said to Mrs. Humphrey Ward: "We shall come in the future to teach almost entirely by biography. We shall begin with the life that is most familiar to us, 'The Life of Christ,' and we shall more and more put before our children the great examples of persons' lives so that they shall have from the beginning heroes and friends in their thoughts."

THE Committee on College Entrance Requirements appointed by the National Educational Association has organized by electing Supt. A. F. Nightingale, of the Chicago High School, chairman, and Principal W. H. Smiley, of the Denver High School, secretary. These gentlemen, with Professor Nicholas Murray Butler, constitute an Executive Committee, from which work may be expected.

*Art Education* (New York) has added to its editorial staff, Henry T. Bailey, State Director of Drawing, Mass. The magazine is now published in two editions, the "Method Edition" at 75 cents, devoted, as its name implies, to methods of teaching drawing and kindred arts, and the "Complete Edition" at \$1.50, devoted to art education in its broadest sense. Teachers of art will undoubtedly find this magazine a most valuable aid.

A JOURNAL of interest to many teachers is *The International Journal of Ethics*, Philadelphia. The January number contained an especially interesting article on the Ethical Life and Conceptions of the Japanese, by Tokiwo Yokoi, of Tokyo, Japan. The discussion of Professor William James' article, "Is Life Worth Living," in the October number, is participated in by Thomas Davidson and Professor J. Arthur Thompson.

TEACHERS in schools where regular chapel services are conducted will be grateful to Dr. Henry VanDyke for a book of *Selections for Responsive Readings* (Ginn & Co.). Originally prepared for the chapel of the Harvard University, where it is now in use, the selections include not only the Psalms but prepared passages from all parts of the Bible. They omit the imprecatory Psalms, and each selection is complete in itself. The length of the selections also vary, some being quite brief. The book is well made for school use.

"THE officers of the National Educational Association commend this movement in the highest terms, and heartily favor giving the Educational Press Association due recognition and assistance. To this end the Executive Committee for 1895-6 have voted not to publish an Official Bulletin; but to rely upon the Educational Press for the publication of all advance information regarding programmes and plans for the annual meeting." Such is the comment on the Educational Press Association of America. It marks a step in advance for educational journalism.

THE *Arden Shakespeare* (D. C. Heath & Co.) is a new candidate for favor for school use in the study of the great poet. The plays are edited by Dr. C. H. Herford, of Trinity College, Cambridge. The notes are full and devoted largely to literary exposition. The paper is good; the print clear, and the binding attractive as well as serviceable. Of the many editions of Shakespeare now offered for class use this is certainly one of the best, deserving to be examined by all teachers before they make selection of their textbook. The price is reasonable. Six plays, Richard II., Julius Cæsar, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, As You Like It, and Macbeth have thus far come to our table.

MR. WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE has edited for Heath's Pedagogical Library the series of articles on English and American Universities, which appeared in *The Dial* of 1894, with two new articles on the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Michigan. The result is a neat reference book for all who are interested in the study of English—and who is not? Some twenty colleges and universities are represented. The space given to each is necessarily small and the treatment is from the hands of twenty or more different writers, so naturally there are a good many different plans. The introduction by Mr. Payne is an excellent survey and summary of the English agitation.

WE have received from Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. three new volumes in the *Riverside Literature Series*. They are *Tom Brown's School Days*, Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*, and *Silas Marner*. These works are too well known to need any recommendation, but in their present form are very satisfactory specimens of cheap but attractive bookmaking. The tasteful linen covers make more evident the clear and handsome typography and should help materially to cultivate in the pupils who use these books that good taste in matters pertaining to bookmaking which is almost inseparable from a love of good literature itself. The price of the *Silas Marner* is 30 cents, of the other two 60 cents each.

WE cannot but regret that the Northern Central Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools has not hit upon a happier plan of membership. Honorary membership is nothing better than a needless encumbrance to an organization for work. Individual membership and institutional membership are absolutely antagonistic ideas; there is no instance known to us of their working well together in the same organization. A membership solely by institutions, with some plan of proportional representation that allowed each institution to elect its own delegates would be simple, logical, sufficient. The plan adopted, a mixture, not a compound, of all known plans, is complex, illogical, but sure to be found a good deal more than sufficient. At least let honorary membership be abolished before it does any more damage.

PROFESSOR EARL BARNES, of the Department of Education, Stanford University, issues an announcement of a series of Studies in Education, to begin in August 1896. Ten numbers only will be issued. They will contain the results of a great deal of the work done by the department during the past five years. The following list of statistical studies will be presented :

Children's interests; children's superstitions; children's ambitions; children's sense of propriety; children's time-sense; intellectual habits of college students; rise of the social instinct; children's plays; children's inferences.

It is expected to make the price of the series one dollar. The announcement is one of great interest, for no university has yet undertaken such a series, and no one has a richer store of material than Stanford, Professor Barnes' work already having a high reputation throughout the educational world.

MANY people and a large section of country are indebted to Mr. William Morton Payne for his consistent advocacy of good things and the cause of righteousness in his editorial work on *The Dial*. His volume of *Little Leaders* (Way & Williams, \$1.50) ought to have a constituency waiting for it. It is such a book as must appeal to everyone who can truly say with Lowell, "I am a book-man." Made up of articles that appeared originally as editorials in *The Dial*, there is yet a considerable thread of unity running through it all. The book falls into three easy divisions: Literature and

Criticism; Education, and In Memoriam. The first division belongs to the realm of the essayist; the second treats a subject as hackneyed as politics with much freshness and vigor; the third contains appreciative obituary notices of ten authors of first rank who have passed beyond the bar. The mechanical execution of the book is really perfect in its modesty and beauty.

AN *Advanced History of England*, by Cyril Ransome, has recently been issued by Macmillan & Co. (\$2.25). This book covers the whole period from the earliest times to the present day, beginning with the pre-historic inhabitants of Great Britain and coming down to the Salisbury cabinet. All this within the space of about a thousand pages means, of course, condensation. The style is, however, excellent. An admirable index covering nearly thirty pages makes the book one of the best for ready reference. It would seem to be admirably adapted for teachers who are required to take a class through an outline history or short history of England, and yet at the same time want at hand a fuller treatment of facts. For those who follow something of a laboratory method in the teaching of history this would make an excellent reference book for the class. On these grounds we commend the book to the attention of schools. It has other merits which make it valuable for another constituency.

IN July 1893, on recommendation of some of the leading members of convocation, the regents of the University of the State of New York, appointed Prin. James E. Russell, then of New York, but now Professor of Pedagogy in the University of Colorado, a special commissioner to visit European educational institutions and report on whatever he might find of most importance to educational institutions in New York. He had no instructions as to the topic but was left to select it after making his investigations. The subject which he found most useful is that great movement known as university extension which has clearly taken a prominent place in modern education. His report treats this important matter so fairly, broadly and ably that it is deemed important to print it for the use of those in the state of New York, who in recent years have become deeply interested in extension work. In this form it will be a most convenient manual for those who wish to understand clearly this modern movement. The bulletin is mailed postpaid for 15 cents.

THE *Makers of Modern Rome*, by Mrs. Oliphant (Macmillan & Co, \$3.00), is a book the mere mention of which will arouse pleasurable anticipations. With delightful frankness the author says in a ten-line preface: "Nobody will expect in this book, or from me, the results of original research or a settlement, if any settlement is ever possible, of vexed questions which have occupied the gravest students. A glance at the aspect of those questions which most clearly present themselves to a mind a little exercised in the

aspects of humanity, but not trained in the ways of learning, is all I attempt or desire." There are four books; Honorable Women, Not a Few; The Popes Who Made the Papacy; Lo Popolo and the Tribune of the People; The Popes who Made the City. There are, too, many illustrations by so good artists as Henry P. Leviere and Joseph Pennell. Attractive in every external way, and of pleasing style, the book hardly needs an introduction to be everywhere welcomed. It can hardly be doubted that this is especially a book for school libraries, even when they cannot have many books.

THOSE of our subscribers who have read THE SCHOOL REVIEW from the beginning will remember the admirable work done in launching the magazine by Dr. Frank Thilly, who was the first managing editor. Dr. Thilly was called, soon after THE SCHOOL REVIEW was started, to the University of Missouri as Professor of Philosophy. It is a pleasure to welcome to our table a splendid volume which is the first product of Professor Thilly's pen, the translation of Paulsen's *Introduction to Philosophy* (Henry Holt & Co.). Professor Paulsen is best known to Americans, perhaps, of all German philosophers. Professor Thilly is qualified as few men ever are for the task of translation, in that his knowledge of German and English are both of the rarest kind. He commands himself an admirable style in both languages and is perfectly at home in both. This enables him to make a translation of a difficult philosophical composition that reads as though it were indigenous to our soil. It is doubtless destined to serve as an introduction to the realm of philosophic speculation to many who otherwise would not enter at all, or would approach by a much more difficult and tiresome path.

VOLUME XXXI. and Volume XXXII. of the International Educational Series are both devoted to Froebel. Volume XXXI. is the *Mottoes and Commentaries of Frederick Froebel's Mother Play*. The mother communings (how much that lacks of the German Mutter Kose!) and mottoes are rendered into English verse by Henrietta Elliot, and the prose commentaries are translated, with an introduction treating of the philosophy of Froebel, by Susan E. Blow. The second volume is devoted to *The Songs and Music of the Mother Play*, arranged by Susan E. Blow. Both volumes are illustrated, the second one quite profusely, the illustrations being reproductions from the cuts of the Wichard Lange edition, now long out of print. It would be a great mistake to suppose that these are books of use only to teachers and in the Kindergarten. In no land under the sun is there a child who would fail to be delighted with the nursery scenes and stories of these volumes. The second volume in particular, if it were not put up in such a dignified way and included in a great series of educational works, ought to find its way to the Christmas counter of every toy department of the land. What a consummation if it could supplant much of the ruinous stuff now offered to childish minds! The translations are selected with great skill from many sources.

It seems strange that it did not long ago occur to someone who was studying methods of education to go to the New Testament and examine the methods pursued by the Teacher who has certainly made by far the greatest impression of all teachers. And yet it is only yesterday that Professor Hinsdale has undertaken such a work, the results of which are published in the book, *Jesus as a Teacher, and the Making of the New Testament* (Christian Publishing Co., St. Louis). Professor Hinsdale tells of the genesis of the work in the preface, the origin being a series of articles in *The Christian Evangelist* which grew out of his own attention to the educational methods illustrated by some of the great teacher-artists of the world. The book is, as might be expected, suggestive, inspirational and full of vitalizing force, rather than a scientific treatise. Its interest and value are not only for teachers of week-day schools, but quite as much, and even more, for Sunday school teachers, and, perhaps most of all, for the innumerable multitude to whom all that relates to Jesus has a perennial and surpassing charm. The spirit of the book is in every way admirable.

THE first annual meeting of the Central Modern Language Conference was held in the Lecture Hall of the University of Chicago, on December 30 and the two days following. The increasing interest in modern languages in the West and Southwest seemed to make such a conference desirable. The success of this first meeting proved the correctness of that belief. There were present teachers and professors from most of the Western states, representing the Universities of Chicago, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Louisiana, the Northwestern University, Washington University, and many other institutions. A programme of twenty-three numbers, including papers on literary and linguistic topics in German, English, and French was listened to by an audience of from sixty to one one hundred and fifty persons, mostly specialists. Measures of importance with regard to the future of the organization were taken. Propositions for coöperation having been received from the American Modern Language Association, the conference determined to resolve itself into the "Central Division" of that association. This division will maintain its own organization, and meet at least twice in three years, with the expectation that the National Association will meet the third year at some point in the Central District, when there will be a joint session. Publication will be controlled by a joint committee from the two societies, and one membership fee gives to the members of the Central Division the right of membership in the Association. The latter organization has decided to meet at Cleveland next year. The officers of the Central Division for the ensuing year are: Professor W. H. Carruth, University of Kansas, President; Professor C. A. Smith, University of Louisiana, Professor E. T. Owen, University of Wisconsin, and Professor G. T. Hench, University of Michigan, Vice-Presidents; Professor H. Schmidt-Wartenberg, University of Chicago, Secretary.

AT this writing it is still undecided whether the Chicago Board of Education will move back into the sixteenth century, or remain in the nineteenth. A good many different kinds of feelings have been excited by the proposal of the board to cut the salaries of the teachers in the high schools. It is pleasant to see that the teachers are not without friends, that there are some people, many people, left in Chicago who prefer that men and women shall be treated justly and honestly, even though they be teachers. The paltry sum to be saved by the cut made the cry of economy ring hollow in all ears. To carry out its ideas of the Reform Committee fully the board should pass the cut ordinance, and then revive the mediæval German law forbidding masters to teach in their shirt sleeves. This ordinance was necessary because the salaries were so low teachers could not afford to wear coats, and if left to their own devices, went without coats and bought bread. The remedy then was not more salary, but a law so burdensome that under it the celebrated poet and teacher, Hugo von Trimberg, wore the same coat thirty years. There would be joy on the part of some who are not angels if such a delightful state of affairs could be brought about in Chicago. What a pity it is that this imperial city is so poor that it must seriously propose to abandon the attempt to keep up with the advance guard. The patriotism of those who favor this scheme is like that of Eli Perkins' Uncle Consider, who so brimmed over with loyalty to the flag that he would leave the front of battle often and go miles to the rear just to rally round the flag awhile all by himself.

Later: The cut has failed. Chicago refuses to advance backwards. Our congratulations to the teachers.

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## CURRENT EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE

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A SCHOOL OF ORATORY. BISHOP JOHN H. VINCENT. *The Chautauquan*, January 1896.

CRIMINAL CROWDING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS. JAMES H. PENNIMAN. *Forum*, January 1896.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE AS A CENTER. HORACE E. SCUDDER. *Atlantic Monthly*, January 1896.

THE STUDY OF AMERICAN ENGLISH. PROFESSOR GEORGE M. HEMPL. *The Chautauquan*, January 1896.

STUDIES OF CHILDHOOD. XIV. THE CHILD AS ARTIST. By JAMES SULLY. *Popular Science Monthly*, January 1896.

THE STUDY OF CURRENT HISTORY. By A. S. JOHNSON, Ph.D. *Ohio Educational Monthly*.

NOT the least among the benefits of the study of current history is the